Compensation for Monsanto's corn seeds in Andhra Pradesh

4006. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the hybrid corn seeds-Decalbo supplied by the Monsanto to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Mahboob Nagar and other districts, have failed to give higher yield than the conventional output;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Monsanto has widely publicized that by using their seeds, farmers would get higher yield;

(c) what are the reasons for failure of formulation of Decalbo seeds supplied by the Monsanto; and

(d) how Government are planning to compensate the farmers of that State in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) It has been reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh that complaints were received about poor performance of Maize Hybrids DECALBO (pinnacle) from farmers of Mahbubnagar and Karimnagar District. The failure has occured due to Non-synchronization of anthesis and pollination of the seeds setting was poor and there was loss in yield. On the basis of reports of the teams of scientists compensation of Rs. 16.16 lakh and Rs. 13.5 lakh was paid to the farmers of Mahbubnagar and Karimnagar districts respectively.

Boosting horticulture export

4007. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE :
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country produces nearly eleven per cent of all the world's vegetables and fifteen per cent of all fruits, yet its share in global exports of vegetables is only 1.7 per cent and in fruits, a meager 0.5 per cent only;

(b) if so, what are the major factors which are undermining out country's potential for reaching super markets around the globe; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost horticulture export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As per production database of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the year 2005, India's share in global production of vegetables and fruits was about 9.2% and 10.47% respectively and the share in global export of vegetables and fruits was about 3.72% and 0.36% respectively.

(b) The major factors undermining India's potential for exports are :—

1. Unorganized export sector.
2. Lack of standards for farm & orchard maintenance including presence of pest and disease.
3. Lack of packaging standards.
4. Lack of market information.
5. Poor harvest infrastructure.
6. Lack of proper cold chain and logistics facilities.
7. Various non-tariff barriers imposed by importing countries, particularly, the developed countries.
8. Lack of awareness among farmers about producing good quality and safe produce.
9. Lack of trained Horticulture manpower.
10. High transport costs.

(c) The steps taken by Government to boost horticulture exports are :—

1. Training programmes for improvement in quality of produce and developed pre-harvest and post harvest protocols for export of grapes, mangoes, litchis, oranges, apples, kinnows etc.
2. Export standards for 34 fruits and vegetables to EU have been prepared and notified under the Agmark Act.
3. Schemes for registration/recognition of Pack houses/ processing units have been introduced for fresh fruits and vegetables particularly mangoes and grapes, meat, poultry, dairy, floriculture, peanuts, rice and cereal sectors.

4. A Scheme for grant of license to use certification mark "Quality Produce of India" is in operation for the processing/export.

5. Promoting commercial research for benefit of processors/ exporters under its scheme for Research & Development through various organizations under ICAR/CSIR system and Agriculture Universities. Creation of awareness among the farmers regarding orchard practices for qualitative production has been undertaken.

6. Further the Department of Commerce through APEDA is implementing the concept of Agri Export Zones (AEZ) which aims at overall development of the supply and value chain of the identified commodities in a contiguous geographical region, having export potential, in collaboration with the State and Central Government agencies.

7. The Government of India promotes agro-exports directly and through Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Associations. In order to boost export of agro products, the Government, provides various incentives for infrastructure development, quality control, market development and promotion, packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc. besides providing assistance to exporters for conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers etc. Further, initiatives include awareness amongst farmers about the latest techniques of farming through mass media support to agriculture through Doordarshan. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

8. The Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products, which *inter-alia* include Integrated Schemes under National Horticulture Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture, and Micro-irrigation.